

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 09979 091227Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

----- 072801

R 090905Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7216

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 9979

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: CHURCH-STATE DIFFERENCES ON FREEDOM OF PULPIT

REF: MANILA 9886 (PARA 2)

BEGIN SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF JUSTICE ABAD SANTOS STRONGLY
CRITICIZED CLERGY'S USE OF PULPIT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.
CARDINAL SIN HAS REPLIED THAT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
DOES NOT MEAN "ISOLATION" AND CLERGY'S DUTY IS TO SPEAK OUT
EVEN ON MATTERS THAT SEEM POLITICAL. "EXPRESS"
EDITORIALS HAVE SUPPORTED ABAD SANTOS' POSITION ALTHOUGH
PAPER HAS ALSO CARRIED LETTERS CRITICAL OF JUSTICE SECRETARY SANTOS.
THIS IS SIN'S FIRST SIGNIFICANT CRITICISM (ALBEIT IMPLIED)
OF GOVERNMENT SINCE HIS CONDEMNATION OF PD823 (TOTAL STRIKE
BAN) LAST OCTOBER. WE DOUBT EXCHANGE PRESAGES RADICAL
CHANGE IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH ABAD SANTOS WENT
OUT OF HIS WAY TO PROVOKE RESPONSE. SIN'S ADVISERS ARE
PUZZLED ABOUT JUSTICE SECRETARY'S MOTIVATION BUT DOUBT HE
WAS ACTING AT BEHEST OF MALACANANG. OTHER SOURCES, HOWEVER,
FEEL HE WAS DOING JUST THAT. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE
DIALOGUE COULD ESCALATE INTO CONFRONTATION; BUT
AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE BELIEVE BOTH SIDES WISH AVOID
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 09979 091227Z

1. IN SPEECH TO METROCOM JULY 5, JUSTICE SECRETARY

VICENTE ABAD SANTOS CRITICIZED USE OF METROPOLITAN CHURCH PULPITS FOR CRITICIZING NEW SOCIETY. ACCORDING JUSTICE SECRETARY, "SUCH DEVIATIONS ARE CLEARLY CONTRARY TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION'S PROVISION THAT THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE SHALL BE INVOLABLE." ABAD SANTOS SAID POLITICAL CRITICISM WAS PROFANATION OF PULPIT BY DILETTANTES AND AMATURES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT PROMPTED HIS CRITICISM.

2. IN JULY 6 SPEECH TO ROTARY GROUP AT HILTON (REPORTED IN AP), MANILA'S CARDINAL JAIME SIN OFFERED HUMOROUS BUT POINTED REJOINER TO JUSTICE SECRETARY. SIN DENIED ABAD SANTOS' CONTENTION THAT PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE MEANT THAT THERE COULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL SUBJECTS FROM THE PULPIT. "SEPARATION SHOULD NOT MEAN ISOLATION" AND CHRISTIANS HAVE "SACRED OBLIGATION BEFORE GOD" TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND TO DENOUNCE INJUSTICE WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT IS COMMITTED. SIN ADDED THAT SINCE HE WAS SPEAKING FROM ROSTRUM AND NOT A PULPIT, HE HOPED ABAD SANTOS WOULD NOT BE OFFENDED BY HIS COMMENTS. SIN SAID HE HAS ALWAYS DISCOURAGED HIS PRIESTS FROM USING THEIR PULPITS FOR PURELY POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE AGREED THAT PRIESTS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED POLITICAL "DILETTANTES" BUT MAINTAINED THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDED AMATEURS "WHO HAVE NOT BEEN MADE BLASE BY THE REALITIES OF POLITICS AND HAVE A KIND OF IDEALISM THAT PROFESSIONALS HAVE LONG FORGOTTEN." THE CARDINAL ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER "GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF POLITICIANS AND POLITICAL SCIENTISTS." SIN SAID PRIMARY PURPOSE OF PRIESTS IS TO SPREAD CHRISTIAN TEACHING BUT IN DOING THIS, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THEY INTRUDE ON SEEMINGLY POLITICAL MATTERS. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WAS THE DUTY OF A PRIEST "TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT" IF INJUSTICE HAPPENS TO BE COMMITTED BY SOMEONE IN GOVERNMENT.

3. GUIDED PRESS REPORTED SIN'S REJOINER TO ABAD SANTOS UNDER HEADLINE: "I AGREE WITH YOU, BUT..." LEAVING OUT MOST OF THE CRITICISM WHICH HAD APPEARED IN AP ACCOUNT. JULY 7 "EVENING EXPRESS" LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "CHURCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANILA 09979 091227Z

PULPIT: NOT A PLACE FOR PROFANITY" COMMENTED "THE PULPIT OF THE CHURCH IS NOT THE RIGHT PLACE TO MALING ANY INDIVIDUAL, GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS OR THE GOVERNMENT." JULY 8 "EXPRESS" EDITORIAL SAID THERE COULD BE NO QUARREL WITH SIN WHEN HE CLAIMS IT IS THE DUTY OF THE PRIESTS TO DENOUNCE INJUSTICE BUT THE QUESTION IS "WHO IS GOING TO DEFINE INJUSTICE" AND WHETHER THE PULPIT IS THE PLACE FOR MAKING THESE SO-CALLED DENUNCIATIONS.

JULY 9 "ORIENT NEWS" EDITED BY KERIMA POLATON TUVERA, A PERENNIAL CHURCH CRITIC, CRITICIZES CHURCH AND SIN OBLIQUELY FOR EFFORTS TO "RE-ENTER THE POLITICAL ARENA THROUGH THE BACK DOOR OPENED WITH PONTIFICATIONS ON SOCIAL ISSUES. THAT IS THE OBVIOUS INTENT OF THE WEDGE BEING MADE BY THE CARDINAL FOR CHURCHMEN TO USE THE PULPIT IN THE DENUNCIATION OF IMAGINED INJUSTICES."

4. ON JULY 9, SIN'S MEDIA ADVISER (WHO WROTE MOST OF CARDINAL'S SPEECH) TOLD EMBOFF THAT SIN'S ADVISERS WERE BEWILDERED BY ABAD SANTOS' UNPROVOKED ATTACK. ONCE LAUNCHED, HOWEVER, IT HAD TO BE ANSWERED. HE SAID HE DOUBTED ABAD SNTOS HAD BEEN INSPIRED BY HIGHER UPS AND THAT PERHAPS HE WAS PLAYING TO HIS METROCOM AUDIENCE. BEGIN FYI: POLICE AND MILITARY ARE INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF CLERICAL "INTERFERENCE" IN POLITICAL AND ESPECIALLY LABOR AFFAIRS. END FYI. HE ALSO DOUBTED GOVERNMENT WANTED TO CONTINUE CONFRONTATION AND NOTED THERE WOULD BE COOLING OFF PERIOD SINCE SIN IS LEAVING FOR TWO WEEK VACATION IN VISAYAS.

5. COMMENT: THIS WAS MOST SIGNIFICANT CRITICISM OF CHURCH BY REGIME IN SOME TIME AND SIN'S FIRST CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT SINCE HIS CONDEMNATION OF PD823 (TOTAL STRIKE BAN) IN OCTOBER 1975. CARDINAL, HOWEVER, WAS CLEARLY GOADED BY ABAD SANTOS. WE ARE NOT PERSUADED ABAD SANTOS' TALK TO METROCOM OR SIN'S RESPONSE SIGNAL RADICAL CHANGE IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. AP HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO SIN'S REMARKS AND "EXPRESS" EDITORIALS IN EXPECTATION (OR HOPE) CHURCH-STATE CONFRONTATION IS BREWING. IN VIEW SIN'S AND REGIME'S DISTASTE FOR PUBLIC POLEMICS, WHOLE INCIDENT IS DECIDEDLY ANOMALOUS. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE ACERBIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MANILA 09979 091227Z

EXCHANGE BETWEEN JUSTICE MINISTER AND CARDINAL COULD ESCALATE BUT WE BELIEVE BOTH CHURCH AND STATE WISH AVOID SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.
SULLIVAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA09979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760265-0456
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760775/aaaacnja.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 9886
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH-STATE DIFFERENCES ON FREEDOM OF PULPIT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, RP, (SANTOS, ABAD), (SIN, JAIME)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006